

Addendum to
Environmental Assessment Dated April 8, 1988
Haines Highway, MP 24 to Border - Project 68800
U. S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
and
State of Alaska
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) standards were met with the Federal Highway Administration Environmental Assessment with the exception of the following items, which will be addressed in this Addendum.

I. Land Use Plan conformance:

The BLM has no land use planning documents for this area. Under these circumstances the environmental documentation provides the basis for the decision on the proposal (43 CFR 1610.8(b)(1)).

II. **PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

A. Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to reconstruct, realign and maintain a portion of the Haines Highway located in Copper River Meridian, T. 28 S., R. 54 E., Sections 21 and 22. The purpose of the project is to improve the safety and operational efficiency of the highway. The highway will be widened, from 26 feet to 54 feet, by the addition of paved shoulders and clear zones. The horizontal and vertical alignments will be improved. Two miles of the highway will be rerouted into the floodplain of the Klehini River to avoid an area of unstable slopes. The highway will be protected with riprap and diversion dikes. The highway was originally authorized under the Omnibus Act. The realignment will run from north of Seward, Alaska at Milepost 24 to the Canadian Border. This realignment will affect 7.47 acres of BLM land which is selected by the State of Alaska. The right-of-way will be 300 feet wide and length on BLM will be 2,700 feet. Construction is expected to take place beginning in the fall of 1999 and will continue through the 2000-2001 construction seasons.

B. Alternative A - No Action:

Alternative A would be the No Action Alternative. This would deny the Federal Highway Administration its request for a letter of consent for reconstruction, realignment and maintenance of a portion of the Haines Highway.

II. Critical Elements:

The following critical elements of the human environment are either not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action or Alternative:

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Environmental Justice
Invasive, Non-native Species
Native American Religious Concerns
Wilderness

A. Wastes (Hazardous/Solid):

Any hazardous substances used, produced, or stored within the right-of-way will be handled and disposed of in a safe manner and in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations.

B. Subsistence:

The Proposed Action would occur on lands currently selected by the State of Alaska under the Statehood Act and do not qualify as Federal Public Lands under the definition stated in ANILCA Section 102(3), and therefore do not fall under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board or the Subsistence Regulations for the harvest of Fish and wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska. Wildlife and fisheries population and subsistence harvest are managed by the State of Alaska. The 1999 Federal take over of fisheries on Federal waters in Alaska does not apply to the Klehini River which are State navigable waters at this time. The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of subsistence resources, alter the distribution of subsistence resources, or limit subsistence user access from current existing conditions on Federal Public lands. No further analysis is necessary at this time.